

TEC NEWS



VOL. XV NO. 3

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1980

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE ELONGATED COLLECTORS



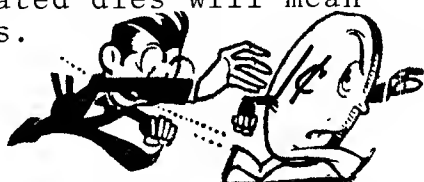
LET'S SAY HELLO IN CINCINNATI

This is the final newsletter prior to our meeting. If you can attend, you will have the opportunity to meet old friends, greet new ones, and make your views known concerning TEC policies and action or lack of it.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There has been extensive publicity concerning a cent shortage and the possibility exists that if the shortage continues to expand, rollers producing elongateds may find Uncle Sam frowning on activities. Let us hope that no roller is foolish enough to accept an order from a large firm such as one of those distributing premiums. The conversion of thousands of cents into souvenir pieces would be a disaster as far as public relations are concerned.

Incidentally, not all the news concerning cents is on the dark side. When and if the price of copper returns to its former high level, the Treasury will be forced to change the alloy. As of this date it appears that copper cents with a steel core are the cents with a future. They will be much more difficult to roll and the wear and tear on elongated dies will mean shorter issues.



Cents rolled on almost pure copper will be of added interest. They will probably be regarded as Type I coins. Type II should be the alloy of the future. Lincoln cents are now becoming popular with collectors and the fact that the vast majority of all elongateds are Lincolns won't hurt the hobby.

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THANK YOU!

The enclosed elongateds were donated by Irving Canter and Vance Fowler. We also received a group of elongateds from longtime member John Spadone but because there is a need for elongateds to be given away at the annual meeting, that group will be presented primarily to those in attendance. If there is a surplus, they will be used in the future newsletter.

Thanks goes to all three who have so kindly sacrificed time, money and effort in donating the elongateds for your collection and enjoyment.

* * *

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

#804 - Neal L. Osborne
3507 Boulevard St.
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#805 - Vance Fowler
3447 Centennial Dr. NW
Salem, OR 97304

#806 - Claude Watt
1237 West Palm Avenue
Orange, CA 92668

#807 - George Tamboli
154 Glendale Street
Everett, MA 02149

#808 - Oliver Ramsey
7711 Knoxville Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79423

#809 - David E. Schultz
503 E. Howard
Winona, MN 55987
(reinstated)

#810 - Frank P. Sirvieg
152 Mt. Bethel Rd.
Warren, NJ 07060

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#811 - Tom Italiano
Box 8085
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#812 - James T. Kunz Jr.
646 Grandview Ave, Apt 302
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#813 - Roland J. Mantovani
30 Flatbush Ave, Rm 343
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#814 - Jack H. Shoultz
2911 First Avenue
Evansville, IN 47710

Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

#815 - Roy S. Fowler Sr.
4048 Penticton Circle NE
Salem, OR 97303

#816 - Bonnie Kereitch
919 Wilton Way
Philadelphia, PA 15220

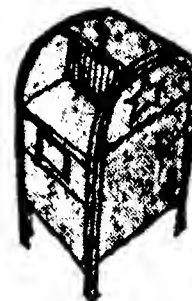
Sponsor: Ginnie Aldridge

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Elizabeth C. Stevens #272
3883 Lovall Valley Road
Somona, CA 95476

O. Wilson Morgan #183
Rt 1, Box 262
Centerville, IN 47330

Novella Watson #212
1701 Leahy
Pawhuska, OK 74056



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OFFICERS OF THE ELONGATED COLLECTORS

President: Lee Martin
Box 667, Beaumont, CA 92223

Vice-Pres: Burton Neal Levy
Box 361, Des Plaines, IL
60016

Secretary: Alice Penzes
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MI 48209

Treasurer: Jack Huggins
103 Powder Mill Rd,
Belleville, IL 62223

Directors: Jack Wilcox
Lou Desrochers
Al Kirka
Sally Kirka

Editor: Lee Martin, Box 667,
Beaumont, CA 92223

Historian: Ginnie Aldridge
& Public 515 Pinehurst Ave.,
Relations Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Past Presidents: Lloyd E. Wagaman
Dottie Dow
Sally Kirka

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RATES FOR ADS IN TEC NEWS

Camera-ready - Full page ad - \$15.00
Half page ad - \$10.00
Quarter page ad - \$ 5.00

Editor set-up - Full page ad - \$20.00
Half page ad - \$12.00
Quarter page ad - \$ 7.00

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MEMBERSHIP DUES:

\$5.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR

SEND DUES TO SECRETARY; ALICE PENZES,
9312 W. FORT ST., DETROIT, MI
48209

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AVAILABLE ISSUES

You can buy the Gena Convention 1979 issue depicting the Philadelphia City Hall for 50¢ plus a SASE from Robert J. Dadson, 409 Eighth Street, Carlstadt, New Jersey 07072.

From Ray Lyles, 218 NE 1st Ave., Miami, FL 33132 comes the news that two Masonic elongated cents with a mintage of 1000 each are available. Price per elongated is 75¢.



One of the most interesting groupings consists of 100 elongateds for \$27.00 including postage from Gus Meccarello, 228 Vassar Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. It's a novel idea and your opportunity to expand your collection with a minimum investment.

From John Spadone -- Heritage Coins -- I Am Proud of My Heritage -- Italian-American and Jewish-American elongateds have thus far been issued and there will be a continuing group. The Jewish-American elongated was rolled by Bob Luchtman. George Trager, with John's assistance, designed the elongated. There were 1000 made on cents (75¢ each), 20 on silver dimes (\$3.50 each) and 4 quarters (\$5.00 each) postpaid. Write to John Spadone, 4872 NW 171st Terrace, Miami, FL 33055. Send a SASE for a listing of his elongateds.



Frank Brazzell of Nation Wide Suppliers, 2224 Wabash Ave, Terre Haute, IN 47807 produces beautiful coins. Write for his

price list. His elongated nickels are absolutely beautiful. Don't forget the SASE.

Bill Thomerson of Copper Charms, Inc. has many nice elongateds for sale. His Ringling Bros.-Barnum Bailey is a beauty. See his ad in April issue.

Chuck Warnstedt of 3517 N. La Vergne, Chicago, IL 60641 is offering an elongated for Oak Park Coin Club at three for \$1.00 plus SASE. Nice with a pretty oak leaf design.

Scott Lum has a nice elongated with the USS Arizona on it for 45¢ each or three for \$1.00. Send for his price list. Don't forget the SASE. His address is 926 B Alewa Drive, Honolulu, HAWAII 96817.

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NOTE FROM THE HISTORIAN

Sincere thanks to Bob Dadson, Chet Rogers, John Spadone and Irving Canter. Was pleasantly surprised with material from new contributors Bill Thomerson of Copper Charms, Inc. and Lee Richards. The Archives now has a complete set of TEC News due to the generosity of John Spadone. He furnished Vol. I No. 1 - 1966 through Vol. VI No. 2 - 1971. Good work, John. My apology to Frank Brazzell and Sally Kirka for failing to mention their offer of assistance in last issue of TEC News. Forgive me, dear friends.

* * *

THANKS FOR THE DONATION

Mr. D. J. Stuart of Pawhuska, Oklahoma donated \$50.00 to TEC. The only stipulation was that it was to be used as we see fit. The consideration of TEC members goes far beyond mere membership. I know all of TEC joins me in saying a very loud and sincere thank you to Mr. Stuart. Member #212 Novella Watson, in all probability had a lot to do with the donation as she is employed in the First National Bank and Mr. Stuart is the Jr. Vice President. Once again, THANK YOU for the very much appreciated donation.

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HOW
NICE

IMPORTANT

TEC MEETING -- ANA CONVENTION
STOUFFERS CINCINNATI
Board Meeting - 9:00 a.m. - Aug. 19
Convention Center - Room 229
(open to probable time change)
General Meeting - 9:00 a.m. - Aug. 20
Convention Center - Room 213

THE TEC MEETING

The TEC meeting should be interesting. We have a few plans that may develop. Rollers and any collector who has spare coins can assist by forwarding them to this office. Past TEC meetings have been highlighted by gifts of packages of elongateds to those in attendance.

We have not had our annual beauty contest to determine which coin was the most beautiful; perhaps that will be reactivated next year.

Members are requested to bring trade gifts. We hope to attract new members and our annual meeting is an excellent contact point.

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THE 2x2's

The two by two cardboard containers especially made to hold and display elongateds have been in great demand but a source of supply is practically non-existent.

Recently contact was made with a large printer to determine the cost for manufacturing. The minimum quantity that can be ordered is 100,000 and the price came to \$2,810.00 plus mailing and sales tax. TEC does not have the finances to pay for this large a group of 2x2's. Price: \$28.10 + 6% tax per 1000.

If members are interested, we will be happy to see if we can't assemble a total order for the vast majority of 2x2's. If you can buy at least 500 and hopefully a lot more, please indicate by dropping a line to Lee Martin. We'll total the orders and the financial potential. DO NOT SEND MONEY UNTIL REQUESTED. This is merely a test probe to determine the potential for ordering the 2x2's.

The 2x2's are the top quality items with plastic permanently in place.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The possibility exists that TEC will have a table in a convention area which will allow members to meet and greet and also to solicit potential members. Anyone willing to spend a few hours at the table should drop a line at once so that a schedule can be made.

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HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
DUES ARE DUE!



If you haven't paid your 1980 dues, why not do so now? Send a \$5.00 check to Alice Penzes (address listed elsewhere).

In return, you will receive your card and a membership coin.

It's always nice to display a membership badge during the ANA Convention. A few are available and can be purchased in person during the meeting.

* * *

1979 TEC Badges - Sally Kirka

The following list of names is of TEC members who have ordered a 1979 TEC badge but may have forgotten that they ordered one. If you send for your badge, you may still be lucky to get one. The badges are \$3.50 and can be obtained by writing to Sally or Al Kirka, 116 Oak Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040. These badges are now being sold on a first come, first served basis. So send for your badge at once. Make out your check payable to T.E.C. Once these badges are gone, there will be no more available.

All you new members, here is your chance to get a rolled out beautiful 1979 TEC badge which is a rolled out quarter on a red, white and blue pin. Have a few left of other years but not too many.

From the list of names below who have ordered a TEC badge and have not sent for theirs yet, please do so at once. As every year a few will order a TEC badge and then not bother to send their checks for one. I hope this feeling will not be given up for lack of interest. If you see your name below, please mail that \$3.50 to us for your 1979 TEC badge.

Don Adams George Alexander
Elmer Anderson Marvin Burnette

1979 TEC Badges...Cont'd.

Harold Butner	Richard Carpenter
Lou Desrochers	Marie W. Felker
James E. Hicks	Barbara Izzo
Adam Klocek	Lee J. Liska
Frederic Mantei	O. Wilson Morgan
Cleo Maddox	Gus Meccarello
Dr. Herman Maul	Robert Mitchell
Isidore Mindell	Richard Mulfinger
Charles Patterson	Charles Price, Jr.
David Radtke	Angelo Rosato
Arthur Smith	Betty Stevens
Francis Szczepanik	Emille Searle
Ronald Vanderbur	Phillip Wagner
Verlee Waterman	David Yararino

* * *

YOU'LL NEVER SEE 'EM!

Rollers are always looking for new ideas but the following tongue-in-cheek suggestions are obvious oddities that would make a display fascinating but drive the roller up the wall!

For example, we have never seen an elongated dedicated to golf that has 18 holes in it! There hasn't been an elongated bathed in perfume known as a "scent" cent. Has anyone ever produced an elongated with a portrait of an eye and a jagged edge on the coin? It would be a miniature "see-saw."

Finally, I am surprised that no one has rolled an elongated, cut in in half and sold it as a genuine "half cent."

Isn't it nice to know rollers are so ethical and these suggestions, so ridiculous.

* * *



ONE OF A KIND!

Above is a photo of John Spadone's grandson, Mark A. Diaz, 3 yr old coin collector. He is shown with the Collector's Extra-ordinaire-- a special leather cover vinyl book to house special collections. There are prints of six elongateds (two on each side and two on the edge) with zipper in the middle. Many hours of handicraft were put into this product by TEC #76 David Radtke. It is a beautiful job!

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ELONGATED COINS

INVENTORY SALE: Due to the tremendous amount of elongateds, The Elongated Coin Museum has: This is a first time offer to interested collectors to this hobby, 100 different modern elongateds with varieties.

\$25.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling

THE ELONGATED COIN MUSEUM

228 Vassar Road

Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

RECIPIENTS OF TEC NEWS "THANK YOU" ELONGATED



Those who write articles for this newsletter will receive a variety elongated from Lee Martin as thanks for contributing. Two or more stories merits an elongated dime.

Why not write an article for our next newsletter and send it as soon as possible? We are very grateful for your past cooperation and believe this issue of TEC NEWS is special because of the member's interesting articles. We would like to encourage more members to submit articles to TEC.

The following individuals wrote an article (s) for the TEC newsletter, Apr-May-June 1980 issue. A special coin from Lee Martin's remaining House of Elongateds collection was sent to them.

I REMEMBER WILL ROGERS - RUBY
THRELKELD #202

THE CREATION OF AN ELONGATED -
CHESTER M. ROGERS #515

TEC AND FRIENDSHIP - IRVING
CANTER #753

WATCHDOG OF TEC MONEY COMMENTS -
JACK D. HUGGINS, SR., TREAS.

GEORGE WASHINGTON NEVER SLEPT
HERE - RUBY THRELKELD #202

A SOUVENIR FOR OUR HOMETOWN - JACK
WILCOX #332

THE S. S. MORRO CASTLE - JOHN
SPADONE #785

THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY -
CHESTER ROGERS #515

THE JOY OF FINDING ELONGATED
COINS - ABE GEFTER #121

NUMISMATICS & KEWPIES - MARIE
TRINNY #37

JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA - GINNE
ALDRIDGE #222

ELONGATED COINS MAKE TELEVISION -
IRVING R. CANTER #753

* * *

Have some personal elongated coins,
and plastic tokens; looking for trades!!

Write: IRVING CANTER, 2665 Homecrest
Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235

* * *

ELONGATED COIN ROLLING DIES

1¢ - 5¢ - 10¢

H A N D C A R V E D

1¢ - 5¢ - 10¢

ON YOUR DIE

WITH ANY DESIGN OF YOUR CHOICE

YOUR DIE OR INSERT MUST BE SOFT -- 7 - 14 DAY RETURN SHIPMENT

EACH DESIGN -- \$55.00 PLUS \$2.00 SHIP.

DIE MAKER AND HANDCARVER OF STEEL DIE AND HOBS FOR 30 YEARS

ADAM J. COOL * * * P.O. BOX 174 * * * BRIGANTINE, N.J. 08203

HOW DO YOU COLLECT?

George Alexander #739



Ever since 1932 when I purchased my very first elongated coin at the Chicago World's Fair, I have continued to accumulate elongateds and encased cents and I have not until this day, determined the best way to obtain the coins for my collection.

My employment carries me into almost all of the 48 continental States and fortunately on occasion, I have time to visit coin shops, coin shows, flea markets, antique shows and swap meets, and it is extremely interesting. First, to see the number of elongateds and encased cents that are available and second, to see the wide variety in pricing. From my experience, I find that coins in the hands of antique dealers have very high asking prices. Many times I have seen elongateds that can still be purchased from the original roller for 50¢-75¢ priced from \$20.00 up. When you call their attention to this or offer to sell them coins from your collection, they never seem to believe you. Many dealers today, in the volatile silver market antics, wouldn't have a lowly elongated in their inventory and look on you with scorn when you ask about elongateds. Flea markets and swap meets have been a very good source for my collection but the time required to seek them out is considerable if you are seeking coins only.

The best thing that has happened to me was joining TEC and by reading the news and corresponding with rollers and other collectors, I have increased my collection to some 2500 elongateds and learned very much about the process and about the very interesting people that are involved in the hobby. The interesting and unique subjects that are commemorated on elongateds represent a virtual history of our country and some of the art and craftsmanship is absolutely superb.

I look forward to the two new books on elongateds that are promised to add to the other two by Dottie Dow

and Lee Martin that I already have. The more information that is available, the more collectors will become interested in our hobby.

Keep up the great work with the TEC NEWS.

* * *

DID DANNY GOOF?

"Doug" Fairbanks, Sr. #623



Recently, while attributing a group of Danny Crabb's "Jim Beam Bottle Series" elongated cents, which I had obtained in three small purchased collections, I discovered an error I hadn't noticed before now. The #67 - "Nebraska Statehood" is misspelled NEBBRASKA. How many others have noticed this?

Most of us are aware of at least two issues which also have "re-issues" which is what I call them. Nos. 14 and 18 - "Harolds Club - Nevada Grey" and "New Jersey Grey" have borders identical with those depicted in "Today's Elongateds" by Lee Martin. I have issues which maintain the same basic theme, but have dotted borders. These are duplicates.

While all reference information available states that the series was rolled on Lincoln cents and silver Roosevelt dimes, I have a duplicate issue of #92 - "Golden Chalice" on a 1908 Indian Head Cent, and a non-duplicate issue of #117 - "Pennsylvania" on a Mercury dime. I also have the #18 - "New Jersey Grey" re-issue on a Roosevelt silver dime, but no original issue.

As noted, I have a complete set of the 200 original issues on Lincoln cents, with good clear reverses. On dimes, I have only #1 through #78 inclu., and #109 through #120 inclu., except as noted above.

I have hundreds of cent duplicates. Would like to trade for or towards my "missing" dimes. Any help? Sorry to say, I have sold my two complete sets of cents.

* * *

STATUE OF LIBERTY REVISITED

Abe Gefter #121

"Statue of Liberty is site of a blast in Exhibit Room, area in base is damaged, no tourists present" This was the headline of an article in the N.Y. Times on

Statue of Liberty Revisited..Cont'd.

Wednesday, June 4, 1980.

Trouble for our beloved statue, the most renowned symbol of Liberty in the world began last November "when seven Iranian students chained themselves to railings inside the Statue for three hours in a demonstration that coincided with the takeover of the United States Embassy in Teheran."

There were other assaults on the Statue by various groups or individuals, the latest one was May 11, "When two men used climbing equipment to scale the Statue to protest the treatment of a convict in California."

(Above quotations from the N. Y. Times, June 4, 1980)

Thank God that the Statue did not suffer any serious damage or injury to any visitor to the Statue.

Today is Tuesday, June 17, I awoke early, the sun was shining, I tuned in my radio to the news broadcast, weather prediction was sunny and warm, since I am retired, I plan my activity accordingly. Today I decided I would like to revisit my beloved lady, so after breakfast, I took the subway to the tip of Manhattan. There I boarded the first boat to the Statue, since it was early in the morning, there were not many people on the boat and in twenty minutes we landed on Liberty Island, home of the Statue of Liberty.

I visited the Statue many times, for me it is always a revelation to look at the Statue up close. Liberty Island is a very small island and when one is so near the Statue, it is like standing near a 30 story skyscraper looking up to the top. (In a previous article about the Statue, I described her enormous dimensions.)

This time I did not climb the 305 ft. height but circled the Statue several times and from any side, the Statue is overwhelming. The tablet in her left hand is about half her total height, yet I could read the inscription very clearly - July 4, 1776.

A strong whistle from the boat means a return to the mainland and soon we were back in Manhattan. This time there were several hundred people in line to board the boat.



As I came off the boat, I came upon a roller elongating pennies. I introduced myself by showing him my 1980 TEC owl elongated. Much to my surprise, he told me he was a member of TEC but dropped out last year. His name is Mike Burke. His partner, Monroe Greenlee, was selling Statue souvenirs nearby.

Mike was rolling the upper half of the Statue just under her left arm. The elongated is vertical, of course, around the upper half and around the crown, the inscription reads "Statue of Liberty New York." Below the left arm of the Statue, the inscription reads "I was there 1980" with dotted border. Burke and Monroe take turns during the week at the rolling machine.

The top of this rolling machine is similar to three other machines I saw, nickel plated with a horizontal feeder to receive a penny or similar coin of the same diameter and thickness. Neither Burke or Monroe would tell me who sold them the machine, but I presume it is the Simon Novelty Co. of Hackensack, N.J. The base of this machine is about 30" x 30" square and about 2" thick and the operator stands on the base to keep the machine balanced. While talking to me, he rolled some Statue elongateds for me and they are beautiful.

A few remarks about rarities of elongateds. What is rare? And how much is a rare coin worth? Rare is considered uncommon--scarce. Lloyd E. Wagaman, in his catalog "The Elongated Coins" lists several hundred elongateds in mintages from a few with dies still active, to several thousand. These coins are not rare with the exception of those coins that the dies were destroyed.

On the other hand, a roller who rolls souvenirs for tourists or persons who see a "stretched" coin for the first time (and most people I watched buying the souvenirs have them holed and attached to key chains), these elongateds could be considered rare or scarce except where a roller like Burke or Monroe chooses to sell their elongateds by mail. But both rollers assured me that it does not pay and they are not interested in such business.

The handful of coins that I bought for my fellow collector friends could be considered rare. Now what is such a coin

Statue of Liberty Revisited..Cont'd.

worth? Not much more than the average price paid for today's elongateds but the fact that such coins cannot be purchased readily, that would make them rare.

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BIRTH OF AN ELONGATED

Ginnie Aldridge #222



In January I began thinking of a design for an elongated coin for this year's convention. Family and friends were convinced I was ready to be committed as I drew six large oval shapes per page on many sheets of paper. So far so good - I had those ovals down pat, but the blank egg-shaped figures just lay there and stared back at me reproachfully.

By March I was beginning to panic. I printed in letters, words, drew pictures, tried various borders and threw them all in the wastebasket. Anyone who came near me during that time had a blank elongated shape thrust at them while I stood by with pleading eyes hoping for an idea. I soon discovered that the creation of an elongated is a labor of love and my would-be helpers were totally lacking the necessary affection.

After much doodling and juggling of letters, I finally settled on the wording--TEC, ANA, Cincinnati, 1980 and my name. Now I figured I was heading for the finish line (checkered flag). Little did I know--none of my designs seemed appropriate. One day I received a catalog for bird supplies. I was idly flipping the pages and not thinking of anything in particular when there it was--a cardinal sitting on a dogwood tree branch. Perfect! Our State bird and flower.

Once again I drew an oval and placed my wording in it. Having made the astute observation that I am not an artist, I pasted the picture from the catalog in the center--dashed off a quick note to Chester Rogers and mailed the letter.

In a few weeks a package arrived from Leachville, Arkansas. "Chet" had

done a superb job. My labor of love had resulted in the birth of a beautiful elongated coin. Anyone wishing to obtain this elongated coin can do so for 75¢ plus S.A.S.E.--515 Pinehurst Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA. 23834.

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TRY OUT YOUR IDEAS

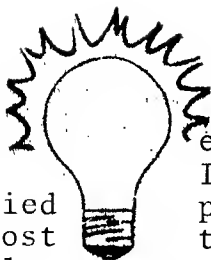
Sally Kirka #16

What does a person do when they have to relax a little? I guess you really do as you please and that's what I am doing. I like to work on my hobby of elongated coins.

As I've been collecting Philatelic Numismatic Covers with elongated coins in them for years, I now make my own. I have paid some high prices for some of these covers with elongated coins in them. This is not a new hobby as Dottie Dow has made many beautiful covers with her elongateds coins in them for years. Some of her covers run into a lot of money now as no one will sell the ones they bought from her. I know I'd never part with any of the ones I have, as I'm proud of each and every one of them. Have won many "Best of Shows" on this exhibit of Dottie Dow's P.N.C.'s.

Throughout the years I bought all the covers I saw with an elongated coin in them. So, as of now, I do have a very large collection. Since I joined a few clubs which members produce and sell their covers, I seek out all who make the Philatelic Numismatic Covers with an elongated coin. By doing this, I found some people who are not members of TEC but who do produce a nice cover. I know of one person who puts out 50 covers for only the list of customers they have and once in awhile will make one with an elongated coin in it.

After paying good money for some of the covers, I started making a few of my own more than eight years ago. I not only make covers but also make postcard-size wooden money which have an elongat-



Try Out Your Ideas...Cont'd.

ed coin on them. I guess I tried a lot of different ideas and most everything worked out very well.

Even though I can't sit hour after hour doing this, I now try to make a few more or less for myself and family. Once in awhile I'll trade with someone else for one of their covers that I like. Each year I improved and got better ideas. I now save anything I see that would look good on a cover or that I could draw.

A few years back I drew some covers for our anniversary and gave them out to my family. From this idea, I have made more different ideas for anniversary covers.

As I belong to many clubs in my area, I make a lot of postcard wood with an elongated coin in mind. Then I cancel them for the members and these sell very fast as most will buy all I make.

Last year I went to town making these Philatelic Numismatic Covers. I don't make many of one kind but I'll make a few. You name any holiday and I have made a cover for it, all with elongated coins to go with them.

When I became an A.N.A. District Representative, I also made a cover for this event. I also made a few covers when I was awarded the Numismatic News Ambassador Award. When I start these ideas, I never know how they will work out until they are finished. All the covers are first drawn by pencil and then I go over each one with a special pen. One slip and there goes the cover, so this is a slow job. Last year in St. Louis, Al and I had many covers cancelled every day. We are grateful to the girl who did a beautiful job of cancelling the covers. I didn't lose one.

Since coming home from St. Louis or since last fall, when I could, I'd spend most evenings making covers. Now for Christmas you can make just about any idea, as you have lots to choose from. Only having them cancelled can ruin

everything if not done just so.

I did find a postoffice where the postmaster treats your covers with tender loving care. Believe me, this means a lot.

This past January I got one good with a few changes I could make for a few other holidays and still look different. With the cold winter days, you don't go out so often so I have plenty of time to work on your hobby. I started hoping I could get at least a few Christmas covers made for 1980 and have now made seven different ideas. As to the size of the envelopes, I use any size I have or can get. I made mini-envelopes with mini-elongated coins and have made many with large envelopes or almost 6x9½ inches long.

Going back to the one Christmas idea I had, I changed a few things and made a few covers for Valentine's Day. Then, from this idea, I changed a few things around and painted them different colors and made some covers that could be nice anniversary covers. When I did this on a larger envelope, I added about 10 more flowers and the idea worked out beautifully. One friend bought them for her daughter's wedding. Of course, a "Just Married" coin will go with these covers. I won't make any more as this is rough on your eyes. It's not easy to do but there are a few tricks you can learn to use.

For Easter I drew my Easter lillies Al gave me. My postmaster friend cancelled these for me on Easter Sunday. The cancellation also counts a lot.

February 29th was also a nice cancellation date. So that day Al and I went to the postoffice and cancelled many covers I made about two years ago. So if you can and feel like making your own Philatelic Numismatic Covers, give it a try. I have a large collection of space covers and I also have one of the largest collections of Pope John Paul covers, and, of course, all have elongated coins in the covers. I didn't make these covers but buying covers already made can be done. I did have my first Pope

Try Out Your Ideas...Cont'd.

John Paul covers cancelled at the first day of issue when the Pope came to the United States. I didn't make these covers as you can buy covers already made. You put your elongated coin in and then have them cancelled.

To tell you the truth, the nice covers that are all handmade start anywhere from \$12.00 and up. Those where only a few are made are a rare collectors item and sell at a much higher price.

Like I said, I'm not interested in selling, just hoping others will try their luck and make their own. It could turn out to be fun as it is for me. Try it, as you may like it.

* *

CHINESE ASTROLOGY

Chester Rogers #515



The Chinese believe that your character and your future were determined by the year of your birth. Whether you believe it or not, here is an intriguing way to analyze yourself and your friends. Buddha honored them in order of their arrival, giving each of the 12 animals a year of its own.

1976-The Year of the Dragon

The Dragon loves a ceremony.. especially if it is in his honor. It is hardly a coincidence that both 1976 (Bicentennial year) and the year 2000 are Dragon-influenced. Dragons are above all, vital, healthy, spirited and captivating. And they are lucky in both love and business. Dragon women are constantly demanded in marriage, but they eternally refuse to settle down. Dragons are attractive, enthusiastic, shrewd, influential and profoundly sentimental. Dragons are also irritable and easily dissatisfied, but when they love, they do so with a purposeful flair. A Dragon lends style to any situation; no entourage should be without one. The Dragon's advice is almost always sound and wise.

A Dragon will have trouble committing himself to marriage but can best hitch up with Monkeys, whose capacity for change will keep the Dragon on his toes. Rats can give everything for the love of a Dragon. Roosters can take the constant upstaging of a Dragon mate. Tigers give Dragons a good run for their money, but without an escape valve, the Tiger/Dragon relationship will be explosive. Snakes and Cats make good mates for Dragons only if they are willing to stay clear of the limelight. Oxen and Dogs are exasperated by Dragons, and Pigs should not be foolish enough to get involved with them. Dragons can take advantage of their kindly natures.

* * *

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Irving R. Canter TEC #753

During the past, I've been using a rubber stamp with my name and address plus my TEC membership number on it. I've noticed many people whom I have corresponded with have questioned me about that. What is TEC #753? I think it is time for a renewed effort to spread the gospel. Does any member of TEC have ideas by which we can induce more citizens to become active in our organization? Let's all make special efforts to induct new members and swell the ranks. Some of the old members are trying hard to get new recruits. Leading in this category is our Club Historian, Ginnie Aldridge. I've been actively soliciting for new members, but so far all I get is promises, promises.

One idea I have is for current members to give a gift membership to a friend. Of course, these gifts should be given discriminately to interested collectors. I'm certain that when they receive their "Freebies" and get to enjoy reading our interesting and factual periodical, they too will soon be deeply involved in The Elongated Club.

As a dyed-in-the-wool, Gung Ho, type of elongated coin collector, I have begun to learn, to adjust to

New Members Needed...Cont'd.

the frustration of impatience and anxiety. The proverbial needle in a haystack is a very minute simile comparatively speaking. I think, in the field of elongated coins, it is more proper to say, looking for a "particular" grain of sand on a beach or trying to strike a Mother Lode of any precious metal. It's simply getting very difficult to unearth many "oldies." However, there is the great feeling of complete satisfaction, whenever you discover one of those elongated coins that have eluded you. Many times I look over my collection, like a miser counting his money. Undoubtedly there is no such collector who can lay claim to a perfect and complete collection of elongated coins. Most collectors, for varied reasons, selectively collect by types only.

If each of our current members were to send in three or four articles annually, can you imagine the size and scope of the TEC NEWS?

Our annual ANA-TEC Convention is soon to be in the city of Cincinnati in August and I hope to see you all in attendance. How many of my TEC fellow men and women are also vecturists? Would like to get together with you all too.

I'm looking for duplicates of "Hello from Brooklyn, USA." I will gladly trade or buy them.

* * *

OLD ROLLED-OUT COIN GRADING & DESCRIPTION SYSTEM

Burt N. Levy #499

This is an attempt to create an abbreviated system to properly describe the physical condition of an old elongated (rolled-out) coin.

Coinage Denominations

Indian Head Cent	IHC
Lincoln Cent	LC
Two-Cent Bronze	TCB
Nickel Three-Cent	NTC
Shield Type Nickel	STN
Liberty Head Nickel	LHN

Silver Three-Cent	STC
Barber Dime	BD
Foreign	For
Copper	C
Nickel	N
Silver	S

Standard Abbreviations

Clipped	C1
Corroded Spot	CS
Gold Dipped	GD
Major	Ma
Minor	Mi
Obverse	Obv
Off Center	OF
One Hole	OH
Plain	Pl
Reverse	Rev
Silver Dipped	SD
Two Holes	TH



Condition

Fine	F	Very strong relief.
Very Good	VG	Strong relief with worn areas.
Good	G	Relief shows overall wear.

Examples:

ILL-WCE # 1e - IHC, F, Obv, CS.
ILL-WCE # 1e - Indian Head Cent, Fine, Obverse, Corroded Spot

ILL-CPIE # 3a - LC, G, OH, SD.
ILL-CPIE # 3a - Lincoln Cent, Good, One Hole, Silver Dipped.

Editor's Note: Perhaps we should add to the above idea--"Uncirculated" and indicate whether the details are minimal or full---also, if the coin is well centered.

What is your view concerning the use of this grading description as devised by Burt Levy?

* * *

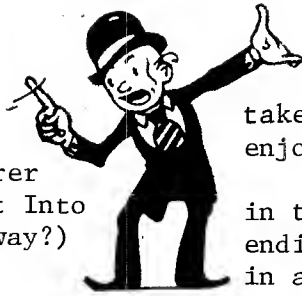
EXCHANGE GIFTS

Those attending the TEC meeting may enjoy exchanging elongateds. A small package of one to any number of elongateds may be brought to the meeting. All with similar packages will exchange via a blind draw. It is your opportunity to add a small note and say hello to a fellow member plus receive some interesting coins in exchange for your duplicates.

* * *

SUBJECT: Profile of A Manufacturer
(or, How In The Dickens Did I Get Into
This, Anyway?)

by Vance Fowler, TEC #805



The scene is a crowded fairground with thousands of people, lights, rides, games, music, whistles, and toots. A carnival spirit fills the air. In the midst of all the glitter and clamor... amid the tinkle of coins on dishes and popping of balloons... a small crowd has formed to listen to a "barker" pushing his wares. In front of him is a flashy, chrome machine with a propeller spinning in front. "What we're doing here, folks, is taking an ordinary penny and, for only 35¢, turning it into a one of a kind souvenir of your visit to the fair.. clinkity, grind, whirrrrrr....presto... a whole new face, guaranteed a lifetime!" The crowd oohs and ahs and the 35¢ price is again stated. A man, wife and child say, "Gee, we'll take two of those, that is a fair enough price." The carney says, "Thank you, sir, they are only 4 for \$1.00." The man can't pass up a bargain and hands over the buck...along with five or ten others in the crowd. A gesture is made to an attractive display case containing earrings, necklaces, bracelets, key chains, fishing lures, and other paraphernalia made out of the little "stretched pennies" and more dollars flow from the crowd! The man and his family walk off through the throngs fingering a pocket full of stretched pennies. Suddenly, a comment from the wife.. "Just who was that masked man, anyway?" Didn't she know? That was The Lone Elongator with his faithful workhorse, "Copper."

But, what is the real identity of The Lone Elongator? Does anyone really know? (or care?) Well, yes..he is me!

As a new member of TEC, I feel a bit of background is in order. You see, I plan to mount an attempt at making the World Book of Records as the owner and operator of more elongating machines than any other person on earth! Wow! I'll go down in history with page after page of beer barrel rollers, salt shaker stackers, and domino tumblers. Such a distinction!

Actually, I can s.m up my qualifications for this task in the words of one of my longtime associates who said, "Fowler, you're crazy!" Maybe so, but they'll

take me away with a smile on my face. I'm enjoying it.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in three major areas, spent seven years ending as a corporate management officer in a major state bank, joined the nation's 5th largest real estate firm as an area representative, and later became Vice President of a management and financial consulting firm with an annual salary in the medium 5 figure range. Now, I'm rolling pennies?!!!!! Sure, why not? I like it.

In reality, I've been interested in these little coin gems for years and have always bought them on sight to give to my father who collects them. When he recently retired, I suggested he look into getting a "machine" and use it as a source of enjoyable income. He liked the idea and hired me as a consultant to set him up. I flew to Hawaii and made trips to San Francisco and finally lined him up with a nice machine. In the process, I became fascinated with the personal possibilities and decided to join him.

I had an electric machine designed and built for me and jumped in with thoughts of setting up college kids with the machines all over the country. I went out "on the line" with the machine myself to gain experience. Boy, did I get experience! It was a real shock to my system to go from commercial real estate development and financial counseling with attorneys, doctors, and professional corporations to 16 hours a day "hawking" pennies to hot-dog munchers on a carnival midway. Thought I'd die! My electric machine was a disaster and cost me literally thousands of dollars before the bugs were worked out..which I did work out..myself.

For the first time in my life, I really had my creativity stimulated and I began to tinker, draw, design and experiment. Idea after idea flowed like the proverbial "fresh mountain stream." I rebuilt the machine properly and it began to work very well. In the process, an idea for an automatic vending machine was conceived and I spent months of full time work engineering and developing it. I now have a successful design that I'm putting out on location. It elongates coins for a customer..on his penny, and returns it..all automatically while he watches the action through glass windows. All of this was underway long before I ever heard of T.E.C.



Profile of A Manufacturer..

Cont'd.

Since then, I've learned our group has a wealth of information and some really "super" nice people. I'd welcome any input, suggestions, or ideas to help my fledgling business move up in the world.

I now have a complete shop set up to manufacture the machines and I feel the ones I put out are among the finest to be had anywhere. I'm concentrating my ponderous efforts now on producing my own personal line of automatic machines but I can produce some dazzling "man-operated" models as well. They are electrically driven as well as manual.

The machines all have "quick change" die segments and my father and I have about a dozen different dies made up currently. We plan to add to this number rapidly. My goal is to have 100 or more separate machines in operation in the next few years and all of them in the Northwest. If anyone is interested in the line of machines produced by my firm, just write: The Cimeter Group, 3447 Centennial Dr., N.W., Salem, Oregon 97304. I will make my elongateds available at a future time but please do not inquire about them as yet. My work day is about 14 hours long now and I'm just not prepared to answer inquiries on the coins alone at this time. I would just love to hear from anyone that knows anything about previous "automatic" machine ventures. I've heard strange tales that they have existed but I have no documentation. Please help me out.

I hope to meet many of you as the years go by..until then, enjoy!...

"Hi Yo, Copper, Awaayyyy!"

P.S. HISTORICAL NOTE: June 12, 1980 was my birthday. I could not stay home to celebrate, but volunteered to run my father's machine at the Rose Festival in Portland, Oregon, so he could attend a grandson's graduation. I switched dies in his machine from "City of Roses" theme to Mount St. Helens Volcano that I had made up. Would you believe it poured down rain and the volcano blasted 9 miles high that evening in its 3rd major eruption? Ash fell all over and we had to shut the whole carnival down because of it. Even at that, I cranked off 1,300 plus of these little "Volcano Pennies!" Happy Birthday, Mount St.

Helens. Talk about FREE advertising! I hope you enjoy them and the ash..come and get all you want. It is a mess here.

* * *

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER OF NEW YORK
IRVING R. CANTER TEC #753

The twin towers of the world trade center loomed skyward in 1973. At the completion of this 110 story edifice of glass, concrete and steel, rising a quarter of a mile high into the New York skyline, it stood. This compound of many subsidiary buildings as well as the "Aegis Towers" comprises an area of two city blocks. It provides for nine million feet of office space in Manhattan's lower west side. It stands guarding the northwestern flanks of the financial district, Wall Street, on the bank of the great Hudson River, overlooking the abandoned and deserted piers of the New Jersey shore, which is situated just opposite these buildings. These incredible feats of modern architecture can be seen from most points in New York and surrounding states.

Many strange and bizarre events have taken place at this modern building site. One of the daredevil entrepreneurs attempted to scale the 110 story giant. Yet still another young aerialist tried to walk across a "tight rope" stretched between the two towers. New York's "Finest", the men in blue, police, if you please, intervened in both attempts.

A new elongated coin is in evidence, to commemorate this great monumental structure of which I, as a native New Yorker, am certainly proud to claim as another worthwhile place of interest to visit, when in the "Big Apple." Since many of the members of TEC collect elongated coins in various categories, perhaps this one can be classified as a place of interest or a type of modern architecture. This superb example of neo-structural effort, definitely deserves to be honored because it has been attributed to be the highest buildings in the world. During recent wind storms in the city area, it has been factually reported that the towers actually rocked with the high velocity of the wind and elevator service was interrupted temporarily. Many floors of the tall skyscrapers showed cracked walls, displacement and misalignment of other building facilities. However,

The World Trade Center...Cont'd.

the building withstood the brunt of the "Big Blow" and were completely in operation the next day.

I received an elongated cent depicting the two buildings with a giant-sized figure straddling and carressing them, inscribed is a familiar much-used quote, "I LOVE N.Y." I do not know whose creative mind drew the sketch or who engraved the die nor who rolled the coins. Anyone having this information available, please contact me, at my address: Irving R. Canter, 2665 Homecrest Ave., Apt. 2K, Brooklyn, New York 11235. I would appreciate having this data for my own personal records.

* * *

ARIZONA MEMORIAL, PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII
Kazuma Oyama TEC #663

"Remember Pearl Harbor!" Our younger TEC members may not know this "battle cry" around which our nation rallied and built the world's mightiest armed forces during World War II. Unlike December 7, 1941, all is serene and peaceful at Pearl Harbor today. One significant reminder of that hellish day is the Arizona Memorial that stands over the still-commissioned U.S.S. Arizona. Our flag - since then increased from 48 to 50 stars - continues to fly from a mast connected to the ship. Enshrined within the sunken hull of the ship are the remains of more than a thousand U.S. Navymen and Marines. The U.S. Navy operates free boat rides to the Arizona Memorial which is located off Ford Island in the east loch of Pearl Harbor. The Navy offers these boat trips daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except Mondays when the Memorial is closed for "scrub-downs" and minor maintenance. Special services are held on the Memorial on Memorial Day and December 7 of each year.

The Arizona Memorial is commemorated on an elongated cent by Leonard "Lennie" Schneider whose hand-cranked roller is located at the boat landing where people wait for their rides to the Memorial. So far he is on his fourth die, three of which are still usable. The four dies have resulted in as many varieties of the Arizona Memorial elongateds. After the first die, Lennie has added the "circle C" copyright symbol to all his other dies.

Also, he has deleted the three-dimensional look from the left (facing) end of the memorial structure and the palm trees from the opposite end. Other minor changes can also be found. The palm trees have been restored on his third and fourth dies but the land formation on both ends of the structure show slight differences. Also there are five birds flying over the structure on one die and six birds on the other. The elongateds on sale the day (April 15) that I visited the Memorial was of the "five birds" variety although Lennie also had the "six birds" variety on hand. The most significant difference after his second die is the change from "1177 men entombed" to "1102 men entombed" - a difference of 75 men. There are 1177 names engraved on the marble wall of the shrine in the Memorial but 75 of those named are buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

Lennie also has a "personal" elongated that says "Aloha from Hawaii" at the top; has his "portrait" in the middle; and "Lennie Pennie" at the bottom. Lennie says he does not want to be involved in mail order so I will accept orders at a charge of 40¢ per elongated plus a SASE. Please specify what you want - variety three or four of the Memorial or his "personal." Send orders to me at P. O. Box 327, Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786.

* * *



"NICE 'GUYS' - NEW MEMBERS"

"Doug" Fairbanks, Sr. TEC #623

In response to a TEC News advertisement placed by "Copper Charms Company, Inc.", I requested a couple of their latest issues which I did not have, having purchased coins from them in the past. Very promptly back came a reply containing my two new elongateds and an illustrated list of others available. I believe the list contained (14) or (16) illustrations; and since their ad indicated they had made (42) dies, I fired off another letter, requesting more information as to issues rolled by them. No answer to that letter as yet, but did receive another piece of



writing. It helps.

* * *

LOCATING THE ELUSIVE ROLLER

"Doug" Fairbanks, Sr. TEC #623



"Nice Guys - New Members"...Cont'd.

correspondence, from a Secretary, I believe. She requested some information relative to elongated coin collectors, which I in turn attempted to assist her. My reward for this effort was two more elongated coin issues which I did not have in my collection. Very nice people. (Please note the new address in the TEC News advertisement.) Members advise me that mail has been returned because they were writing to a previously recorded address.

In reading the write-up in the last TEC News on "The Cimeter Group," on came the "light bulb" in my head with an idea. Not waiting for any future advertisement to appear, I wrote to one Mr. Vance Fowler, requesting information and availability of any elongated coin issues already rolled. Seems I was the second member to write to him and back came a very friendly reply, injected with some sly humor, and containing two elongateds I did not have in my collection, and a nice little wooden display frame. There was no charge or price mentioned, but only a slight "catch", that I provide him with some information. This I did, promptly, while requesting more information regarding the (10) dies he stated he had already made. No reply to this, as yet. Vance says he intends to set-up at numerous locations in the near future.

To those members who intend to stay abreast of current issues, I would advise you to contact these two new member firms. Don't forget the SASE when

During the 1980 Winter Olympics, held at Lake Placid, New York, sharp-eyed TEC member Irving Canter observed on his television screen a man rolling elongated coins. He wrote to me of this and shortly thereafter, a note from member Jack Wilcox, to the same effect. As an avid collector of any and all elongated coins, my curiosity was aroused. In my little pea brain, I figured the individual (of necessity) would require a license, a permit or a franchise. So I decided to pop off a letter to the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, requesting any available information from their records, or to see if any of the elongated coins were still available in the village novelty stores. In a very few days, back came my reply, and as you can see, it is not the name of the two men mentioned in a write-up in the last TEC News. Perhaps they worked for him, this I do not know. The man's name I received was one Mr. Jim Dundon - 2423 Jones Ave. - Panama City Bch - Florida - 32407) I wrote to Jim and received a fine reply, plus one of the aforementioned elongateds. I had requested 12 issues, but since he mentioned no price and decided he would rather trade for some of my modern issues, I sent him 7 coins so as to obtain 6 issues for my collector-friends.

The coin is a nicely designed vertical roll and dated 1980. Jim and his wife, Robbyn, (I believe her to be his wife) intend to set up rolling operations at ten various locations in the near future. It might be wise to contact him to stay on top of current issues.

* * *

ELONGATED CENTS ROLLED
ON HAND CUT DIE

2-3 WEEKS DELIVERY



ANY DESIGN OF YOUR
CHOICE MADE TO YOUR ORDER

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FIRST 600 PIECES.....\$140.00

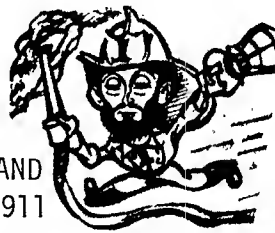
ADDITIONAL ROLLED CENTS ON SAME DIE \$ 10.00 PER 100 PLUS \$ 100 SHIP.

MY 100% GUARANTEE ONE ROLLING OF YOUR NEW ORDER WILL BE SENT TO YOU FOR YOUR APPROVAL. IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH FINISHED PRODUCT RETURN THE SAME ROLLED COIN TO ME REGISTERED MAIL AND I WILL RETURN YOUR MONEY IN FULL. THE FIRST ROLLING SENT WILL BE ALUMINUM TO SHOW QUALITY OF WORK.

ADAM J. COOL

POST OFFICE BOX 174

BRIGANTINE, N.J. 08203



DREAMLAND PARK FIRE, CONEY ISLAND

by John G. Spadone #785 1911

There was a fire list, daily, on the bottom front page of the New York Times, back in the 1900's. It seems that there were too many uncontrollable fires and disasters that made the news and sold newspapers. This indicates that the people in those days were careless and ignorant with fires and building materials (wood) used were more flammable and with primitive, if any, fire fighting techniques and equipment.

A few days after the May 27, 1911 Dreamland Park Fire, new elongated coins were born. People, by nature, are curious and inquisitive and just before the vacation season, flocked to see what happened. It didn't take long for the souvenir seller to have the roller of his idle machine engraved and be at the main gate, bright and early the next morning to roll out your Indian and sometimes Lincoln penny for five cents. The Elongated Coin book by D. Dow shows this event listed under New York Coney Island #8 (NY c.i.-8) page 81. Dreamland destroyed by fire/buildings in flame/ May 27, 1911/ Denticle border. Below this another elongated listed as #8a similar looking to #8 with different view of the fire and rolled border. There exists another unlisted variety, probably called 8b of another fire view with Denticle border. On page 82 of Dow book is NY.c.i.-9 souvenir/Coney Island/ Dreamland Tower/Dreamland fire/May 27, 1911/ Raised roll border. There may be other elongated coins that have not surfaced or been discovered if the dies broke down or more rollers got into the act.

Article from newspapers day after the fire as follows:

N.Y. Sat. - May 27, 1911

"THREE MILLION DOLLAR FIRE SWEEPS DREAMLAND AT CONEY ISLAND" Battle With Flames Noted For Exciting Incidents Wild Animals At Large Incubator Infants Saved

Fire, starting from either crossed electric wires or from the half smoked stump of a cigarette, today ate the heart out of Coney Island, the most expensive resort in the world."

So read the headlines that told of a fire that made news throughout the country. It was a fire marked by wild animals being released from their cages by panic stricken handlers. Lions, tigers, leopards and baboons raced frantically through the streets, maddened by their burns. Some were shot, others axed to death, and some, too terrified to move, burned to death in their cages.

Six tiny babies, displayed in incubators, were carefully wrapped in cotton and carried out by a policeman to a nearby hospital and all of them survived.

The great Dreamland Tower, the landmark of Coney Island, with its thousands of electric lights, blazed like a torch for a short while, then collapsed in a mass of blackened ruins into the lake.

Tales of heroic rescues were common during the fire. Approximately 2,000 people, concessionaires and their employees living on the grounds, were sleeping when the fire broke out at 2:00 A.M. Some were rescued from the roofs of burning buildings. Others, cut off by fire on the pier, were rescued by fire boats. Animal trainers, attempting the rescue of the animals, were pulled unconscious from the flames.

The fire started in "Hell Gate", a scenic railway, the oldest attraction in Dreamland. Twenty minutes after the first alarm was turned in by a frightened watchman, ten acres of the park were one giant blaze, fanned by a strong wind. About 200 buildings, representing about 1/3 of the amusement park were totally destroyed.

Dreamland was the second of the big parks established on Coney Island -- second only to Luna Park -- but one of the most expensive in the world at the time.

Democrat Chronicle

Rochester N.Y. Sat. May 27, 1911 -

"Coney Island Park Burning" Flames Break out early in Morning and fanned by wind, spread rapidly.

Fire broke out early this morning in Dreamland, a big amusement park on Coney Island. The blaze spread rapidly and appeared to threaten the entire park.

The flames were first seen at the lower end of the park next to the ocean, and spread like wildfire, fanned by stiff breezes. Four alarms were turned in within

Dreamland Park Fire...Cont'd.

a few minutes and at 2:15 A.M. the fire was rolling unchecked to Surf Avenue, the main street of the Island.

Shortly afterward a fifth alarm was turned in for the fire. The season at Dreamland and the other Coney Island Parks opened only last Saturday night. The park was entirely renovated during the winter season and presented many additions of the old variety features this year. Dreamland was the second of the big parks to be established on the Island. Luna Park being the first. Its tall towers gleaming with electric lights was a conspicuous feature from the ocean at night. By day, it was a commanding object from all sides. It was possibly the most ambitious of the enterprises at the Atlantic Coast resort.

* * *

DELAWARE RIVER BRIDGE
UNLISTED ELONGATED.--
A FAVORITE
By JACK WILCOX - TEC #332



Back in September 1976, I had the good fortune to win an unlisted elongated from a mail auction. It is rolled on an 1889 Indian cent, reads: PHILA & CAMDEN at top, view of bridge in center, BRIDGE at bottom, holed at right, no border. This is a favorite in our New Jersey collection now, thanks to my wife Peg's insistence on my placing a bid high enough to win.

I spent a few interesting hours at the library researching the story on the PHILA & CAMDEN BRIDGE and will share the highlights with you in this article. Reference is from "The Building of The Delaware River Bridge Connecting Philadelphia and Camden, N.J." by Charles Carwell. Enterprise Publishing Co., Burlington, N.J. 1926.

The Delaware River Bridge Joint Commission was created by legislatures of both New Jersey and Pennsylvania in Dec. 12, 1919. By decision of this Joint Commission in 1921, plans got off to a flying start. Physical construction began on the bridge on Jan. 6, 1922. The Joint Commission's report June 23, 1921 was the key. It recommended that the bridge could be built by July 4, 1926 in time for the Sesqui-Centennial of the

Declaration of Independence. The cost was estimated at \$28,871,000. divided as follows: State of Pennsylvania - \$8,221,000; State of New Jersey - \$12,429,000; City of Philadelphia - \$8,221,000, total as the estimate read. Note--The final total cost was \$36,023,373.15 when completed.

During construction a dispute by New Jersey for having a toll arose and was settled when Pennsylvania repealed its No-Tolls Act and approval was given for tolls to be collected on the N.J. Camden approach. Toll cost not available in this reference book, no doubt because it was published in 1926.

The bridge connects vital points of the highway systems of Pennsylvania and New Jersey focusing in Philadelphia and Camden to render a degree of service not available via the ferry routes. It has a total length of 1.8 miles from the approach at 6th St., between Race & Vine Streets in Philadelphia, to its terminus at 7th & Penn Streets in Camden.

The main suspension span is 1,750 feet, steel towers rise 380 feet above the water with massive granite anchorages. The suspended spans are supported from two cables 30 inches in diameter. It has a 135 foot overhead clearance over the river channel (Required by the Secretary of War) sufficient to accommodate all the ships of the U.S. Navy. Width of 800 feet in center span channel.

It was the longest suspension span in the world and any yet built in the U.S. at this time. The roadway is 57 feet wide between curbs and can accommodate six lanes of traffic abreast, while four track spaces can be used for Rapid Transit. Ample walks are provided for the foot passenger. Bridge width is 128 feet.

The Atwood's 1970 Third Edition Catalogue of Transportation Tokens lists two scarce tokens for the Delaware River Joint Commission and one token for the PRT line and four tokens for the PTC line. Listed as New Jersey--Camden 115 A to G. All of which we have in our N.J. token collection, I'm happy to say.

The foot walks were completed Aug 8, 1924 and the first official crossing from Philadelphia to Camden was made by members of the Joint Commission and also representatives from both states. The official crossing of the bridge roadway was on March 19, 1926 again via foot walks.

The scheduled opening by 4th of July 1926 was revised to enable the bridge to be available for weekend traffic, and it was opened on Thursday, July 1, 1926. (Fourteen workmen lost their lives during the construction of this great bridge.)

Crossing the Delaware River made famous by Washington's winter journey was now enhanced by the new PHILA & CAMDEN BRIDGE span in time for the great 1926 Sesqui-Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia.

This leaves me to ponder and wonder if my unlisted elongated was rolled for the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition. I also just noticed the error on Page 110 of Dottie Dow's "The Elongated Collector" for the listing of the coins rolled for PEN-SCE. Note spelling of Sesqui-Centennial, those lucky enough to own this book. Funny I hadn't noticed this error before. Researching for a TEC NEWS article has its rewards in strange ways I see.

* * *

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON THE BRIDGE

Jack Wilcox #287

Changing a span's steel suspenders is risky business

By BRUCE DALLAS
Associated Press writer

PHILADELPHIA — Changing bridges in midstream is no easy task, but 60 ironworkers are doing just that 400 feet above the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Ben Franklin Bridge is getting new suspenders.

Working above the bridge's seven-lane highway and high-speed train tracks, the laborers look like spiders repairing a giant web as they haul up new steel ropes as long as some skyscrapers are tall.

The Ben Franklin connects Philadelphia and Camden, N.J., and both ports serve the freighters and tankers that make their way upriver from the Atlantic to pass without pause beneath the bridge.

"It's probably as high as I've ever been. The towers are nearly 400 feet to the water, and I've never been over 40 stories," said Robert Crouse, an ironworker from Swedesboro, N.J., who works on one of the project's five-man crews.

240 feet in length. "We can change a set of (two) ropes in three days with no problems," Crouse said.

"The technique is to attach huge clamps between the bridge and (main suspension) cables, tighten the clamp and loosen tension (on the ropes)," Lynch said. "Then they simply disassemble it. They had to burn off some rivets and replace them with bolts. Then they replace them (the old ropes) with galvanized ropes," he said.

"There's an apparatus up there to work off of," Crouse said. "Some guys work off a float, sort of a plywood scaffold supported by four lines. Walking up the main cable, the handrail makes it easier and a little safer."

At lower levels, the ironworkers climb ladders to the 30-inch thick main suspension cables. To get to higher points, they take an elevator to the top of the towers and then walk down the main cables.

"Yes, it's dangerous, but it was a lot more dangerous for the guys who put it up in the first place," said Dobroski.

Thirteen men died in the construction of the Ben Franklin between 1922 and 1926, Lynch said. The bridge was the first major crossing of the Delaware below Trenton, N.J., and the longest suspension bridge in the world at the time.

No one has been injured in the rope-changing project.

"It's up to you to tell whether it's too windy," Crouse said. "You make your own decisions, as far as personal safety. No one can make you stay on the job if it's unsafe, especially in winter with the ice and stuff."

"You could never walk steel in the winter — too icy," he added.

Work is suspended during the winter months, picking up again in the early spring.

The crews have to wait each day until the morning rush-hour traffic has made its way to Philadelphia, then two lanes are closed on the side of the bridge where the men will be working. Work has to stop around 3:30 p.m. so the lanes can reopen for the evening rush hour.

"You get breaks, a lot of standing-around time," Crouse said. "Mostly you watch the traffic."

The Ben Franklin is the oldest suspension bridge to have its steel suspender ropes replaced, but it is not the first. Earlier this year, crews finished replacing all the ropes on San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, and some suspender ropes have been replaced on the George Washington Bridge between New Jersey and New York City.



Editor's Note: (Lee Martin)

It's a small world. I lived in Camden, New Jersey for sometime and had a photo studio. I used to drive across the Delaware Bridge almost every day. When it was first built, the toll was 5¢ and a lot of noise and angry remarks occurred when the fee jumped to 10¢. The original idea was to accept a toll until the bridge was paid for and then make it a free bridge. During the longest period of time, the toll was 20¢ per crossing. To show how time, politicians and inflation can ruin a good idea, it was recently 60¢ one way and to satisfy customers, the fee was dropped all the way down to 55¢. Obviously, just as \$2 gas is on the horizon, so is the \$1 per trip.

* * *

"It doesn't bother you once you get used to what you're doing. You tie off, so if you do slip you don't fall too far anyway," he said, adding, "It's pretty hard to fall in the river ... because you're working over the roadbed."

The three-year project to replace all 596 steel suspender ropes on the 1.8-mile bridge is about 35 percent complete, according to John Dobroski, project supervisor for the American Bridge Co. of Fairless Hills, a division of U.S. Steel.

The \$6.8 million project is to be completed by 1982, according to William Lynch of the Delaware Port Authority, which operates the Ben Franklin and three other bridges as well as the two ports.

The new ropes should last half a century, almost as long as the 53-year-old originals, Lynch noted.

Secured to the trusses beneath the road surfaces, the steel ropes rise like harp strings to the curving suspension cables that swing down from the twin 380-foot towers.

The ropes are 2½ inches thick, weigh 9.8 pounds per foot and stretch up to

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